

Carbon Monoxide Dangers Listed

By K. H. Sutherland, M.D., County Health Officer

Cases and deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning occur every year throughout the country, most of them during the winter months. In the 1962-63 fiscal year, 33 cases of poisoning by carbon monoxide were recorded within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Health Department and, in addition, there were seven deaths. In truth, these were needless cases and needless deaths caused either by a lack of knowledge or by carelessness.

The qualities of carbon monoxide gas tends to make it exceedingly dangerous. Since it is odorless, and non-irritating, the unsuspecting victim may become incapable of movement before he realizes that anything is amiss.

THE DANGER of the gas lies in its ability to combine with the red blood cells of the body very much faster than the life-sustaining oxygen that is in the air. When too much of the poisonous gas is inhaled, it displaces the oxygen in the tissues and the person becomes ill and may die.

Early symptoms include headache and dizziness, yawning and sleepiness, and a ringing in the ears. Of all the organs of the body the brain is the most susceptible to the poison and soon ceases to function normally. In prolonged exposure, the victim experiences extreme fatigue, mental confusion and an inability to move, which may be followed by unconsciousness. In these cases, the skin and mucous membranes turn cherry red in color.

Carson Park Dedication Set Nov. 23

Dedication of a new park to serve the growing Carson area will be held Saturday, Nov. 23, at the recently completed park, Carson Neighborhood Park, 21411 S. Orrick Ave., was recently completed, and will be dedicated in ceremonies arranged by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Facilities at the new park include a basketball and volleyball court, baseball diamonds, a picnic area, parking areas, and landscaped walks and patios.

A recreation building has also been built in the park. The building, 1,800 square feet, will be used for civic meetings and other activities, reports Supervisor Hahn.

Paul Schneider, president of the Carson Chapter of Commerce, will be master of ceremonies. The Carson High School Marching Band will provide music during the dedication.

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THE SEVERITY of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning depends on the amount of monoxide that is inhaled. A low concentration over a long period may be as lethal as a high concentration for a shorter period. In the early stages, fresh air will quickly banish the symptoms.

The burning of any fuel with an insufficient air supply will result in carbon monoxide. This harmful gas may therefore be produced when coal, coke, charcoal, wood, kerosene, oil, and artificial or natural gas are used for heating, cooking or refrigeration.

Natural gas is the fuel most commonly used in Los Angeles County. Unlike the other substances mentioned it is, in itself, free of carbon monoxide, but the lethal substance is created when the gas burns in an atmosphere that does not contain enough oxygen or when an appliance, particularly a heater, is defective.

THE UNVENTED heater should be replaced with one that is vented to the outdoors in all instances. The vented heater should be properly installed, and of a type approved by the American Gas Assn. Approval of any gas-burning appliance means little, though, unless it is properly installed and maintained. These appliances should be periodically inspected by the local gas company, a plumber, or by a recognized qualified person.

Since the effects of carbon monoxide on the human body are so insidious and so often render the victim helpless to help himself, it is best to make sure that carbon monoxide poisoning cannot happen at all. A pamphlet on other dangers of unvented gas heaters will be mailed to anyone sending a request to the Division of Public Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles 12.

In places of human habitation in this area, the use of the unvented gas heater is forbidden by law, and this applies even to privately owned dwellings. Still, the fact remains that many are still in use, particularly in private homes.

THE DRIVER of a car may be the victim of slow carbon monoxide poisoning, for this can easily occur if the car is completely closed and the exhaust system or muffler is defective. Or it may occur in a closed garage when the motor is left running. Carbon monoxide incidents have also been reported when butane gas or charcoal braziers are used for heating or cooking in places such as trailers or boats. However, the most common source of carbon monoxide poisoning in this area is the unvented gas heater, and the most common place of occurrence is the private home.

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High Rise Committee Appointed

A high rise committee has been formed by the Riviera Homeowners Assn. to oppose a variance for a 13-story apartment building now planned for the old Riviera Club site.

The city planning commission has recommended that the City Council deny the application of the developers, but the Homeowners Assn. will continue to study the matter.

Named to the committee were Stanley Dunn, John Johnson, Austin Woodward, Ralph Brogden, John Barton, Dr. Charles Hospiks, Donald Finkelstein, Robert Dawson, and Col. John Putnam.

The request for a variance to permit construction of the apartment house will come before the City Council on Nov. 19.

Steel Works Awards Men For Service

Thirty-two employees, whose combined tenure with the Torrance Works of U. S. Steel's Columbia - Geneva Division totals nearly 1,000 years, were honored at the quarterly service awards luncheon.

Since Howard F. Haneschka, a 40-year veteran rolling mill heater at 2207 Arlington was unable to attend, service seniority honors were shared by three other Torrance men at 35 years each. They were Calvert Miller, Delbert J. Thomson, and William A. Peterson.

Thirty-year honorees from Torrance were Alonza T. D. Owen, Newell J. Mortenson, Don H. Hyde, Grant H. Warren, Andres Alvarez, Pedro Martinez, Nicholas H. Cucci, Raymond S. Garcia, Jesus Moren, Gilbert J. Derouin and Estanislao Valdivia.



APPOINTED . . . G. E. (Gerry) Welehlin of Torrance has been named quality control manager at the electronics division of the National Cash Register Co. in Hawthorne. He will be responsible for quality control of the electronic data processing equipment manufactured by the firm.



ELEVATED . . . John H. Garwood has been named vice president of Vickers Inc., a division of Sperry Rand Corp., and his present activities in organization planning and management development will be expanded to include all management, supervisory, and professional employees.

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